

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA RYAN WHITE CARE COUNCIL**

**PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

**EMPATH HEALTH - CLEARWATER**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023**

**9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sheryl Hoolsema, at 9:34 a.m. |
| **ATTENDANCE** | Members Present: Nolan Finn, Sheryl Hoolsema, Angela Kellogg, Jeffrey Lluberes, Gina Puglisi, Elizabeth Rugg  Members Absent: Nicole Kish, Marylin Merida  Guests Present: Allyson Jones  Recipient Staff Present: Aubrey Arnold  Lead Agency Staff Present: Joshua Cardwell  Health Council Staff Present: Abigail Dees, Katie Scussel |
| **CHANGES TO AGENDA** | There were no changes to the agenda. |
| **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | **Members voted to approve the minutes for September 14, 2023 (M: Kellogg, S: Finn).** |
| **CARE COUNCIL REPORT** | Committee Co-Chair, Nolan Finn, reported that the Care Council met on October 4, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. He remarked that it was the best attended meeting the Council had had in years. Members passed the Needs Assessment Report and the Service Priorities, brought by Planning and Evaluation. Members also voted on Part A FY 2024-2025 Allocation Recommendations, which determines funding amounts for the upcoming Part A procurement. The Women, Infants, Children, Youth, and Families Work Group announced their upcoming fall event. David Cavalleri presented the quarterly performance measures. Several of the measures were lower than expected, which may be due to providers not entering data.  The next Care Council meeting will be on November 1, 2023 at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. |
| **2022-2026 INTEGRATED PLAN UPDATE** | A. HRSA/CDC Summary Statement  Members reviewed the HRSA/CDC Summary Statement on the Integrated Plan and discussed the call with HRSA and CDC staff that would be taking place later that afternoon. Staff, Katie Scussel, said that the HRSA project officer said that it should be straightforward. The reviewers from HRSA and CDC will go over the Summary Statement and give people an opportunity to raise any questions or concerns. Both committee chairs said they would be participating in the call.  Members discussed the Summary Statement. Aubrey Arnold pointed out that there was a comment about the area “not demonstrating collaboration with all Ryan White parts, only Parts A, B, and D” but A, B, and D are the only parts available in the Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). There are Part C funds in Manatee and Polk, but those counties are not part of the EMA.  Katie pointed out that there was a comment about the highest numbers of new cases being in the Asian population, but that that was a misreading. Asian people had the highest number of cases within the “Other” race category, not of all people. Contextually, it was not a very high number.  Aubrey stated that with anything the area submits to HRSA, there will always be feedback that doesn’t quite make sense but that it is not worth arguing over. Overall, the feedback on the plan was very positive.  B. Monitoring Update  Members went through the monitoring tool and discussed the latest round of updates. Katie explained that all new data points were in bold and included new epidemiology numbers released by the Florida Department of Health the previous month.  Members discussed the goal of expanding testing in non-traditional venues, which includes jails, emergency rooms, and unhoused people. So far, Katie has only been able to collect data for the emergency room at Tampa General Hospital (TGH) since they have a dedicated opt-out testing program. Aubrey pointed out that there may be testing happening at other hospitals, but we don’t necessarily have an in to collect that data. There has been interest from Baycare in replicating the TGH testing project, so that might be an option in the future.  Members discussed testing in jails. The case management agencies that have case management within the jail system may have more information. Katie asked how often people are tested in jails. Sheryl Hoolsema answered that it is routine in prison, but not in jail. Angela Kellogg added that testing would usually only happen if someone had a medical visit or there was some significant risk identified. Tests are only required to be reported to the state if they are positive. Joshua Cardwell said he could also ask around at the Florida Department of Health to see if he could find any additional information on tracking of jail testing.  Members also discussed the goal of increasing use of telehealth. The goal written in the plan was to increase the use of telehealth to reach 450 clients throughout the EMA, however, in the first round of monitoring it was discovered that up to 1,460 clients were accessing telehealth in 2022. Angela commented that it is hard to say whether increased use of telehealth has a meaningful effect on retention in care. For some clients it may be beneficial, but not for all. Members questioned how this data is tracked. Katie said she would follow up with David Cavalleri to ask, since he collected it the first time. |
| **COMMUNITY INPUT/**  **ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Nolan thanked everyone for their patience and insights.  There were no other community concerns or announcements shared. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. |